



# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Revenue Department Increases Levying Activities

ATLANTA -- In its continuing effort to bring more individuals and businesses into compliance with the state's tax statutes, the Georgia Department of Revenue has increased its levying action activities throughout the state.

A five-member special levying team has been formed to spearhead the Department's increased levying effort.

"The members of the special levying team were selected because they possess the most experience and knowledge regarding levying activities within the Department," said Ed Many, Director of the Department's Compliance Division. "The team's mission is to effectively manage and resolve delinquent accounts and to train agents in our regional offices about our levying tools."

Georgia Revenue Commissioner Bart L. Graham added that the levying team is another tool the Department is utilizing to level the playing field for all Georgia taxpayers.

"While the Department's levying mission is clear, our agents must at all times treat taxpayers with professionalism and dignity. We are adamant in our effort to have a fair and balanced tax system in Georgia but we will not condone mistreatment of taxpayers or noncompliance with the law," said Commissioner Graham. "Although these types of initiatives have an inherent budget effect, no aspect of this initiative is solely managed for the sake of the number of businesses closed or the amount of money collected. We are only interested in collecting the outstanding obligations owed the state."

Since January, the Department has collected over \$1.9 million in unpaid sales and use tax, withholding tax, and corporate and individual income tax through business closures, bank levies and confiscating unpaid taxes from business cash registers. The agents have also closed 33 businesses during that same time period. Several of the closed businesses reopened after settling their tax obligation or entering into bankruptcy.

"It's unfortunate that some taxpayers give us no alternative but to close them down," said Many. "Most closures are a result of the taxpayer's failure to remit sales or withholding tax, which was collected from customers and employees and to which the business owner has no entitlement."

The Department has collected approximately \$82.2 million in delinquent taxes through its various tax compliance initiatives since November 2003.

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